

this amendment and help us attach it to the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Discussion on the Dierks amendment. Senator Crosby, would you like to discuss the Dierks amendment?

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I think I will talk for a minute here because...I am going to vote against the amendment because I don't want it to sunset, just to start with, and there has been some things said on all these amendments as we keep talking about them, and, again, I come back to what I feel we should be talking about, and I understand about the budget. And I will tell you, I can understand about the budget. Last night I had withdrawal symptoms because the Appropriations Committee didn't meet. Right, Scott, we didn't know what to do with ourselves. We got to go home a little early. But I don't think putting a sunset on it is going to solve the problem for what we are trying to do with this bill. And when you talk about all the other things you want to try to do with it, that is not what the bill was, and I thank Senator Rasmussen for recognizing it. That is not what this bill is about. If we want a bill to redesign education, let's get one in to redesign education and how we do public school education in this state. I have been on a commission that has been working on that very subject, and we come up with all kinds of ideas and all of it focuses on the teacher-student relationship. And I go back to that again, there are so many teachers out there, who are innovative, who work so hard, and we keep talking as if they are not people. They are, they are people, and they are people that work with our children every day. Some of the things that have been said about tenure and so on, I cannot believe out in Grand Island that they are firing teachers every two years. They would have a chaotic school system if they did that just to get away from paying the...having them as tenured teachers. That just can't happen. And I do think, from what I know, I know a lot of teachers in Grand Island and I think that that is a very good school system. The other thing, when we talk about other countries, there has been some things handed out here, the math scores in Japan and so on as compared, we are not Japanese. We are not Chinese. We are not Indian, Eastern Indian. We are Americans. We are a group of people from all over the globe who have come together in one United States of American and each one of us is different. We come from a different culture. You simply cannot sit down and say that because Japan does differently on math, then we should do